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INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 KABUL 002768

SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 09/10/2019  
TAGS PGOV, PREL, AF  
SUBJECT: ABDULLAH THOUGHTFUL ABOUT HIS NEXT MOVE  
REF: KABUL 2767

Classified By: D/Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, Reason 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (S) In a meeting September 9, presidential challenger Dr. Abdullah Abdullah told Ambassador Eikenberry that he had not anticipated the elec

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Still Under Pressure - But Calm  
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2. (S) We met Abdullah late at night, alone with one notetaker, after his long day which included a ceremony commemorating the eighth annivers

3. (S) Abdullah complained that the Ministry of Interior was circulating a letter accusing him and his supporters, such as Balkh Governor Atta

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I Didn't Think it Would Take So Long  
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4. (S) Ambassador Eikenberry stressed to Abdullah that his conduct during the campaign, and now, has made him a national figure with a real fu

5. (S) Abdullah appeared subdued as he responded that he didn't want such a long period of uncertainty; he thought that disqualifying obvious

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Abdullah on Karzai: Holding the Nation Hostage  
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6. (S) Abdullah indulged in a variety of criticisms of Karzai, saying that he was working for his own interests against those of the whole cou  
KABUL 00002768 002 OF 002

7. (S) When Karzai's people had approached him three months ago, Abdullah said, he refused to join them because "I couldn't influence him wher

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What Next? The Good of the Country  
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8. (S) Abdullah admitted that he had been "approached" recently by Karzai's National Security Advisor about a deal to end the election standof

9. (S) Looking at his future, Abdullah said that while he wanted to create a national and cross-ethnic movement which could become a true poli

10. (S) Being in the opposition would be a hard and vulnerable position, Abdullah said, but capitalizing on this new political movement was cr

11. (S) Abdullah exhorted the U.S. not to give up on the process yet, saying that "expediency for immediate concerns" could undermine the rule